

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION**

CARMEN NORWOOD,

Plaintiff,

v.

ANDREW SAUL,

Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

Case No. 4:18-cv-01104-SNLJ

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter is before the Court on plaintiff's motion for attorney's fees (#24). Plaintiff also seeks costs totaling \$400 for the filing fee in this case (#25). Defendant filed a response (#26). This Court reversed the Commissioner's decision in an Order and Memorandum dated September 5, 2019. Plaintiff now comes pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. §2412 and requests that this Court award her attorney's fees and expenses in the amount of \$4,882.50 to be paid to plaintiff's attorney. The defendant has no objections to payment of the amount requested. Plaintiff has signed an assignment of EAJA fees in this case. However, defendant requests that the Court enter an order awarding the attorney's fees to plaintiff rather than plaintiff's attorney in accordance with *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S.Ct. 2521 (2010), which held that EAJA fees are subject to offset to satisfy any pre-existing debt that the litigant owes to the United States. Defendant will verify whether plaintiff owes a debt to the United States, and, subject to any preexisting debt, the fee will be made payable to plaintiff's attorney. This Court finds

that there are no circumstances in this case that would make an award under the EAJA unwarranted.


Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED the plaintiff is awarded attorney's fees in the amount of \$4,882.50 to be paid by the Social Security Administration.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that plaintiff is awarded costs of \$400.00 to be paid from the Judgment Fund administered by the United States Treasury.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendant shall pay attorney's fees in the amount of \$4,882.50 and costs in the amount of \$400.00, paid directly to plaintiff's attorney, Parmele Law Firm, subject to any pre-existing debt that the plaintiff owes to the United States. Payment shall be mailed to plaintiff's attorney, Parmele Law Firm, 1505 E. Bradford Parkway, Springfield, MO 65804

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2020.



STEPHEN N. LIMBAUGH, JR.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE